

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7739
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMMANDU
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12840

EXDIS - NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, IN, NP
SUBJECT: PLANS OF B.P. LOIRALA

REF: (A) STATE 218202 (B) KATHMANDU 4538 (C) NEW DELHI 12610

1. POLITICAL OFFICER EXPLORED FURTHER WITH THE NEPAL DESK OFFICER IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOVEMBER 6 THE INDIAN VIEW OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN NEPAL. THE NEPAL DESK OFFICER DERIDED NEPALI CONGRESS STRENGTH IN NEPAL AND VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING.
 2. EXTREMISTS IN NEPALI CONGRESS CLAIM THAT IF THEY START SOMETHING THE WHOLE COUNTRY WILL RISE IN THEIR SUPPORT. INDIA DISAGREES; THE NEPALESE SIMPLY AREN'T REVOLUTIONARIES. THERE IS DISAFFECTION IN NEPAL ABOUT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, CORRUPTION, ETC., AND THOSE DISAFFECTED TEND TO SEE A SOLUTION IN THE FORM OF A CHANGE OF REGIME. BUT THEY AREN'T ORGANIZED.
 3. THE NEPALI CONGRESS HAS TRIED TO GET ARMS FROM BANGLADESH. INDIAN AND BANGLADESH OFFICIALS TOGETHER HAVE LARGELY PREVENTED THIS. THE NEPALI CONGRESS WOULD BE ABLE TO MOUNT A REAL OPERATION ONLY IF IT CAME TOGETHER WITH THE PRO-PEKING FACTIONS OF THE NEPALESE COMMUNISTS AND IF THE BANGLADESH, WEST BENGAL AND BIHAR GOVERNMENTS ALL FELL APART. EVEN THEN, , THE
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- GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL COULD HANDLE THEM EASILY.
4. PART OF THE EXTREMISTS' OBJECTIVE APPEARS TO BE TO START SOMETHING INTO WHICH INDIA WOULD BE DRAWN ON THEIR SIDE.

THEY ARE "SADLY MISREADING" INDIAN POLICY, WHICH WOULD BE TO LET THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL HANDLE THE SITUATION.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ASSASSINATION OF S. P. KOIRALA (KATHMANDU 4403) MAY LEAD TO FURTHER INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE GON AND THE NEPALI CONGRESS. IF THE NEPALI CONGRESS BELIEVES THE GON WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION (AND THE NEPALI CONGRESS LEADERSHIP WILL PROBABLY KNOW ONE WAY OR ANOTHER), IT WILL PROBABLY FEEL OBLIGED TO RETALIATE, E.,G. BY TRYING TO ASSASSINATE SOMEONE IN KATHMANDU. IT MAY NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF DOING THIS, BUT IT WILL TRY FIGURING, THAT IF IT DOESN'T AND THE GON WAS INVOLVED, THE GON MAY ASSASSINATE ANOTHER NEPALI CONGRESS LEADER. (THE GOI FOR ITS PART HAS REACHED NO CONCLUSION ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION. SEVEN PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED; SIX OF THEM BY THE NAME OF PASWAY AND WITH NO KNOWN POLITICAL AFFILIATION, AND ONE NAMED JHA WHO WAS AN ASSOCIATE OF S. P. KOIRALA. EVEN IF THE ASSASSINATION WAS INITIATED FROM NEPAL, IT MAY HAVE BEEN BY A LOW-LEVEL OFFICIAL RATHER THAN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.)

6. THE PROPOSAL FOR A CORDON SANITAIRE WON'T WORK. INDIA CANNOT KEEP THE NEPALI CONGRESS LEADERS AWAY FROM THE BORDER AREA WITHOUT EXILING THEM TO SOME PLACE LIKE GOA. IT CAN'T DO THIS TO B.P. KOIRALA, A FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATE IN INDIA'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE WITH SOME OF ITS PRESENT-DAY LEADERS.

7. WE WILL FIND THE OPPORTUNITY TO LET GOI KNOW AT MORE SENIOR LEVEL OF OUR SATISFACTION THAT KING BIRENDRA'S VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL. MOYNIHAN

NOTE BY OC/T: RAISED TO EXDIS PER S/S-O - MR. ELTZ.

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